



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

Fall 2008

SOWINGS

Milan Wall, of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development recently wrote an editorial about the myths concerning the future of small towns. A majority of the communities SELS serves are small towns and the article and information shared deserve our attention, discussion and consideration, whether at library, school or town board meetings and planning sessions. Libraries have a stake enriching lives in communities of all types and sizes and need to work in tandem toward a preferred future supporting residents of all Nebraska communities. So, reprinted in its entirety with permission of the Lincoln Journal Star:

Mythology Feeds Debate on Future of Small Towns

By Milan Wall

The Journal Star's editorial on Aug. 17 called for a public debate to spawn new and creative ideas on how to help Nebraska's small towns thrive. The editorial cited data indicating that Nebraska towns since 1890 have shrunk in median size. On the average, however, town size grew from 939 in 1890 to 2,147 in 2000, counting the towns that survived between then and now (and excluding Omaha and Lincoln).

Conventional wisdom, so-called, often drives what we think is true about small towns. Here are the Heartland Center for Leadership Development's "Six Myths about the Future of Small Towns," which turn conventional wisdom on its head.

Myth No. 1: Towns that are "too small" have no future.

What's too small? In our experience, there is no magic number below which a town can't survive. Take tiny Nenzel, Nebraska, population 13. One of the local attractions is the Nenzel Community Center and Heritage Museum, built in the 1990s. Public buildings are supposed to last for 50 years, so the folks in Nenzel apparently believe their community has a long future ahead of it.

Myth No. 2: A community's location is key to its survival.

In the mid-1980s, when the farm crisis turned the town square in Broken Bow into empty storefronts, some community leaders volunteered that they were glad the community wasn't close to the Interstate Highway. Why? Because they felt like they were going to have to come up with solutions on their own anyway, and being too close to a major thoroughfare might lead them to think solutions lay elsewhere. Within a few years, the community was back on its feet and the town square was full once again. In today's economy, leadership is more important than location.

Myth No. 3: Industrial recruitment is the best strategy for economic development.

When industrial expansion was prevalent, industrial recruitment made sense. But today the competition is keen, the marketplace is global, and the opportunities for industrial attraction are few. Small towns today will succeed if they focus mainly on retaining and expanding the employers they already have and on nurturing entrepreneurship. In the last five years, Ord has focused heavily on local business development. The result? Seventy-three new businesses, 10 business expansions, 21 ownership transitions and a total of 332 new full-time jobs!

Continued on page 2

Myth No. 4: Small towns can't compete in the global economy.

In 1961, Mary and Dick Cabela started a kitchen-table mail order business in their home in Chappell. Today, Cabela's is a global entrepreneurial success, shipping outdoor products to all 50 states and 125 countries around the world. Many other, smaller businesses dot the rural landscape and sell products or services internationally. With modern technology and shipping options, rural is no longer a handicap in the global economy.

Myth No. 5: The "best people" leave small towns as soon as they can.

Out-migration of talented younger people remains a challenge in rural areas. But the "brain drain" doesn't mean that there are no brains left. In fact, small towns are filled with capable people who, on a daily basis, make giant contributions to their communities in time, talent and treasure. Furthermore, a surprising number of teens in rural communities see themselves as possibly living in their hometowns in the future, according to recent surveys conducted in more than a dozen Nebraska communities.

Myth No. 6: The rural and urban economies are not interdependent.

Conventional wisdom sometimes suggests that metropolitan areas don't really need rural places anymore. But how could cities maintain their quality of life or grow their economies without farm products, wood products, energy projects and other natural resources that come from rural places? Raw materials and finished goods are shipped to urban centers through rural areas using infrastructure that is built and maintained principally by rural community residents. Cities and small towns, to put it bluntly, need one another to survive.

So, we welcome the debate, and we hope the Journal Star will help sponsor it and many Nebraskans will join it. And we hope that much of that debate will focus on how to strengthen the rural-urban connection so that all communities – both big and small – can grow stronger.

Milan Wall is a founder and co-director of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development and executive director of HomeTown Competitiveness, a rural community development initiative of the Heartland Center, the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, all located in Lincoln.



Just wanted to give you a summary of the 6th Grade Summer Reading Program at **Morton-James Public Library** in Nebraska City. There were 24 registered. The kids read 22,976 pages. Each 100 pages read gave the kids on chance to "dunk the librarian" which was me (Lisa Guthals) and the summer help, Claire Chamley. The top readers were Katie O'Neil, Nathan Schreiner and Austin Meyers

-Lisa Guthals, Library Assistant



Wanda Marget, the director at **Fairmont Public Library**, partnered with a couple of interested community residents and successfully wrote a grant to a local foundation to fund an Arts & Crafts Program at the library. Following the wrap-up of their summer reading program in June, for an hour every Monday, beginning in July, kids could participate in an arts and craft program that included making: stepping stones (with the help of a local concrete business); painting with a local artist; scrap booking; tie dying t-shirts; glass luminaries; and birdhouses (with the help of the local lumber yard). The program had 18 youth participating from ages 4 to 13 – and has been so popular they are writing a second grant to the foundation to keep the project going. They've also had interest from adult

residents in doing a similar program for them. Due to grant funds the library was able to purchase, a Cricut – an electronic cutting system for shapes, letters, etc. – similar to what we do with Ellison and Accucut dies, although in a much more portable system using a cartridge. They also used Smilebox.com in putting together a final report for the foundation – which is a free online program that allows use of photos, videos, music in putting together a scrapbook or slideshow or photo album. Wanda shared a sample with the photo at left, which includes a picture of her grandson. In the meantime, the next craft project on the list is making pillowcases. :)

-as told to Brenda Ealey by Wanda Marget, Director

Mary Friedly, **Pawnee City Public Library**, poses with her grandson on newly installed benches outside the library. The benches are on both sides of the library entrance and are in memory of Alexander's grandfather, Stephen Friedly, 1946-2005.

-Mary Friedly, Director



A beautiful Gazebo was dedicated Sunday August 31st at the **Struckman-Baatz Public Library in Western**. A Public ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by a reception in the Library. The new Gazebo is a wonderful addition to our Library grounds and was generously provided by a memorial gift.

-Bobbe Schwisow, Director



News for the Sunbelt



September

September – Library Card Sign-up Month (www.ala.org/librarycardsignup)

September 15th – October 15th – Celebrate Latino Heritage Month. See page 6 for history/links.



September 26th – CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians) at the Lyceum in Brownville. Sure to be a fun and informative day with Jane Smith (Lyceum), Boni Hathaway (Village Bookstore), Tom Rudloff (Antiquarium), and Cinnamon Dokken (A Novel Idea Bookstore) joining us. Bring your community's top ten adult fiction titles – and if you haven't already read Kent Haruf's *Eventide* – do that, as he'll be NLA/NEMA Conference's keynote on Friday October 17th, and also his book *Eventide* will be the topic of discussion at One Book Many Librarians session at conference on October 16th.

September 27th – October 4th – Banned Books Week – Closing Books Shuts Out Ideas, for more information and ideas for activities go to ALA's website at: www.ala.org/bbooks and the NLA Intellectual Freedom blog at: <http://nlaif.blogspot.com>.

October

October 11th – Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival at Concordia University. For details www.cune.edu/plumcreek.



October 15th – 17th – Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference in Lincoln.

October 17th & 18th – 2008 Nebraska Book Festival in Lincoln, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Library Commission. Kent Haruf, author of *Plainsong* and other work set in the high plains will open the festival with a keynote address on Friday evening. For more information go to: www.unl.edu/NCB/current_festival.html.

October 19th – 25th – National Friends of Libraries Week – for more information go to FOLUSA's (Friends of Libraries USA) website at: www.folusa.org/sharing/national-friends-week.php.



October 24th – SELS Board Meeting, at mystery location to be revealed at a later date. :)

October 30th – ELS/SELS Fall Colloquium with Veronda Pitchford – see page 8.

November



November 14th – CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians) meeting at Wymore Public Library. We'll have Dee Aguilar (UNL Speakers Bureau) for a presentation on: Humor: What's So Funny?" This month please read the title – *Focus on the Good Stuff: The Power of Appreciation* – an adult selection by Mike Robbins for our book discussion.



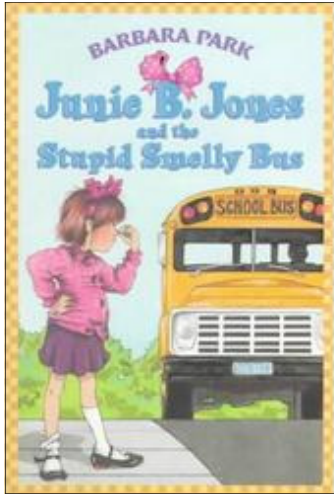
November 28th – SELS Friends Book Fair at Barnes & Noble – SouthPointe Shopping Center, Lincoln (2910 Pine Lake)

December

December 3rd, 10th, 17th – Basic Skills Administration Course at Seward Memorial Library.



December 11th – CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians) meeting at Kilgore Memorial Library in York. The SELS Board will be joining us, and odds are good will fit in lunch at Chances R.



A bus,
a bear,
& a teenager.

Sound dangerous?

Yes, yes they do. Live dangerously.

Read a banned book.

Open and read these three challenged
books about a kindergartner, an orphan, and
an adolescent during

Banned Books Week

September 27 – October 4, 2008.

Closing Books Shuts Out Ideas.

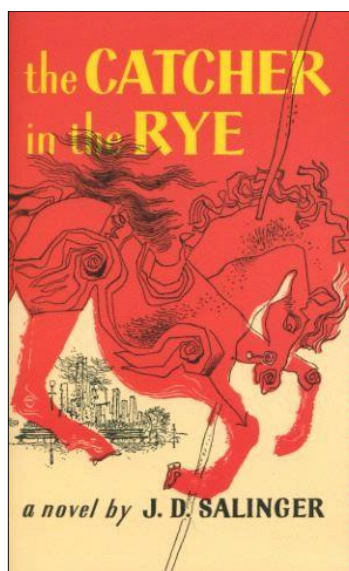
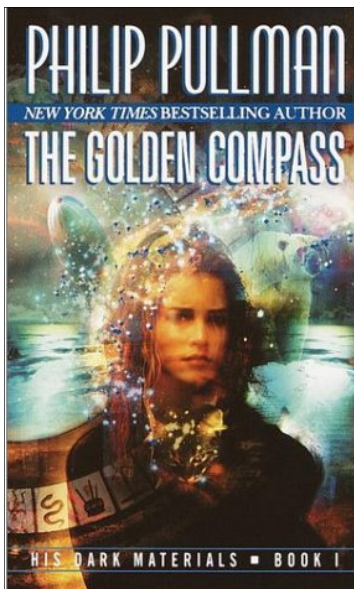
Celebrate the Freedom to Read

Join the discussion & get more info for banned book
week ideas and readers' theater at nlaif.blogspot.com.

Readings from banned books performed by the Angels Theatre Group:

Omaha: Sunday, September 28th at 2 p.m. at the Soul Desires Bookstore
located at 1026 Jackson Street (downtown in the Old Market with paid
parking lot across the street).

Lincoln: Thursday, October 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at Lee Booksellers located at
56th and Highway 2.



One State, One Banned Book

Sponsored by: Nebraska Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee (NLA-IF)
Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON)
American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska (ACLU-NE)



News and Notes

Golden Sower Nominees 2009-10

Kathy Schultz, Golden Sower Award Committee Chair, reports the nominees for the **2009-2010 Golden Sower Awards** are now posted on the Golden Sower website at: www.goldensower.org/nugget/lists/bibs.htm. At the website you can also view past years' winners and nominees.



Picturing America Grants

Nebraska Libraries and Schools are invited to submit applications for the second round of **Picturing America Grants**, due **October 31st**. Picturing America is a program from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association providing schools and libraries with the opportunity of using notable American art in learning about United States history. Applicants selected for Picturing America receive 40 reproductions, a resource book with ideas and background information for the works of art, and an online resource with access to images, lesson plans, and more detailed information on the artwork and artists. For additional information and an application go to: <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov>. Materials for applicants selected will be shipped in March 2009.

We the People Bookshelf

The American Library Association's (ALA) Public Programs Office is pleased to partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the sixth *We the People Bookshelf* project. Part of the NEH's *We the People* program, the Bookshelf encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year's theme, "Picturing America," explores the premise that a nation's literature, as well as its visual art, can be a window on its character, ideals and aspirations. The *We the People Bookshelf* on "Picturing America" will be a literary complement to the NEH's Picturing AmericaSM program – a free education resource that provides reproductions of 40 pieces of great American art to schools and public libraries to help educators teach American history and culture through our nation's art (www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov).

Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply online from Sept. 2, 2008 through Jan. 30, 2009 at <http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf>. In spring 2009, NEH and ALA will select 4,000 libraries to receive the 17 books for young readers, plus three works in Spanish translation, as well as bonus materials for readers of all ages. Selected libraries will be required to use the Bookshelf selections in programs for young readers in their communities.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed nationally September 15th through October 15th to coincide with the anniversaries of independence of several Latin American countries. The month is meant to celebrate the culture and traditions of those who trace their histories to Spain, Mexico and Spanish-speaking countries of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It was September 1968, when Congress authorized President Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month long celebration.

Some interesting links: The Pura Bepre awards: www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal/belpremedal.cfm; The Americas Book Awards: www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm; and the Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents: www2.csusm.edu/csb/.

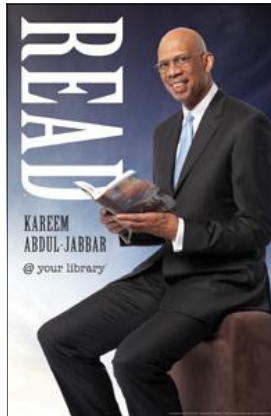
News and Notes



Library Card Sign-up Month

The American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to announce that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer and a prolific author, has been named honorary chair of Library Card Sign-up Month.

Held in September, **Library Card Sign-up Month** is a time to remind parents and children that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Abdul-Jabbar began his association with the ALA earlier this year, when he was selected by ALA President Lorie Roy to be the keynote speaker for the President's Program at the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. The master of the sky hook, the 7-foot-2-inch Abdul-Jabbar led UCLA to three consecutive NCAA titles and the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers to six NBA championships. But Abdul-Jabbar's achievements go far beyond the court. He has written several books, including *On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance*; *Giant Steps*; *Black Profiles in Courage*; *A Season on a Reservation*; and *Brothers in Arms*. Four of his books reached bestseller lists.



Abdul-Jabbar said, "The library has always been my own personal time machine. I can walk through the doors and land in any place, any time period in history. I didn't have to wonder what their worlds were like; I could experience it firsthand."

Abdul-Jabbar is featured in his own READ poster at the ALA store. To order, click www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?sn=catalog&pn=product_detail&op=2541. For more information on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, go to his Web site, www.kareemabduljabbar.com/. Library Card Sign-up Month was launched in 1987. Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each fall in a national effort to ensure every child does just that. Free tools to help libraries promote Library Card Sign-up Month are available at www.ala.org/librarcardsignup.

Youth Grants from NLC

The Nebraska Library Commission announces Youth Grants for Excellence are available to accredited public libraries and state-run institutional libraries for special projects in the area of children and young adult services. These grants are awarded to encourage innovation and expansion of public library services for youth and their parents or caregivers. Applications will be accepted for projects in the two areas of focus: Boys and Reading, or Early Childhood Reading Programs; as well as other listed areas of service to youth. (See the "youth grants intro" link below.) The Youth Grants for Excellence require a 25% match, of which at least 10% must be a cash match, the same as the Continuing Education and Training grants. The minimum amount that will be awarded per grant is now \$250, which means the minimum total project cost will be \$333, with your library providing at least \$83 (cash and in-kind) for the 25% match required.

Once again this year there are two different application forms. For projects requesting \$250 - \$1,000 in grant funds use the **short form**. Applications requesting more than \$1,000 must use the **long form**. Applications and support materials must be received by the Nebraska Library Commission with the postmarked date no later than **October 10, 2008** or **submitted electronically by 11:59 P.M. CDT on October 10, 2008**. **Faxes will not be accepted**. You will be notified by December 3, 2008 if you are awarded a grant. The forms and information for the Youth Grants for Excellence are now available online at the following sites:

Introduction: Information and Guidelines www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsintro.html.

Fall Colloquium 2008

Veronda Pitchford

“Die-Hard Library Chick”

&

**Vice President of Membership &
Communications at the Urban Libraries Council**



No phenomenon reshaping the world today is more dramatic or far reaching than the massive global migration of people. Join Urban Libraries Council's Veronda J. Pitchford in a discussion around ULC's latest actionable research publication, **“Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village”** which will engage participants through discussing partnerships and service strategies that welcome new residents and speed their transitions to success in becoming a part of the local community. Veronda is adamant that no matter the community you serve, whether in a university, school, institution and/or public library setting – this is a message that is pertinent and vital. Librarians from all types of libraries need to be involved in building community.

Veronda is the Vice President of Membership and Communications at the Urban Libraries Council, a 180+ membership organization of public libraries and the corporations that serve them throughout North America. In her not so recent past she has worked for a Chicago area regional library system and as an academic librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In 2005 Library Journal honored her as a Mover and Shaker without ever having seen her moves on the dance floor. She is a die-hard library chick. Not sure that there will be dancing-but come see her moves and hear her thoughts on creating community that strike a chord with library issues we're addressing in Nebraska.

Thursday, October 30th, 2008 5:30-9:30 p.m.

at The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE Yankee Hill III

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Veronda Pitchford
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion

Dinner: Arbor Buffet with Roast Beef with mushroom steak sauce or Spiced Citrus Chicken

Fresh salad, fruit, vegetables, rice, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and milk. Various cakes & pastries for dessert.

The Fall Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System & the Southeast Library System.

This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

YES! I want to participate in the Fall Colloquium 2008: Veronda Pitchford

Name _____ Library _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please choose one: ☐ Roast Beef ☐ Chicken

Send completed registration form & payment of **\$35.00** to: **Southeast Library System,**
5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505. **Deadline: Wednesday October 22, 2008.**

The 4 Rs: Robots, Romance, Revolvers and Recipes

Join us on October 15, 2008 at the Bennett Martin Public Library on 14th and N in Lincoln, Nebraska for a Pre-Conference workshop exploring four different genres featuring authors from the midwest. Each author will explain their writing techniques and why they love for writing their specific genre.

October 15, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Bennett Martin Public Library
14th and N**

Lincoln, Nebraska

Cost \$35.00 (lunch included)

5 CE Credits

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

Robots will be our first session beginning at 9:30 until 10:00 a.m. with Kevin J. Anderson. Kevin J. Anderson is the author of more than ninety novels, 43 of which have appeared on national or international bestseller lists. He has over 20 million books in print in thirty languages. He has won or been nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including the Nebula Award, Bram Stoker Award, the SFX Reader's Choice Award, the American Physics Society's Forum Award, and New York Times Notable Book. By any measure, he is one of the most popular writers currently working in the science fiction genre.



Romance writing is a topic that Victoria Alexander knows well. She will share her knowledge with us from 10:50 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Victoria Alexander was an award-winning television reporter until she discovered fiction was much more fun than real life. She turned to writing full time and has never looked back. Victoria grew up traveling the country as an Air Force brat and is now settled in a hundred-year-old house in Nebraska with her husband and two teenaged children, and a bearded collie named Sam. She firmly believes housework is a four-letter word, there are no calories in anything eaten standing up, procrastination is an art form, and it's never too soon to panic.

Revolvers is the title for our mystery session from 10:10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. with Sean Doolittle. Sean Doolittle grew up in southeastern Nebraska. His first two novels, *Dirt* and *Burn* were published by [UglyTown](#). More recently, *Rain Dogs* was published by Random House/Bantam Dell (2005). His most recent novel is *The Cleanup* (Dell, 2006). His writing was shortlisted for the CWA/Macallan Dagger Award. He won the Gold Medal in *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Award in 2003 for *Burn*. And *Dirt* was an Amazon.com Top 100 Editor's Pick for 2001. He holds the MA from the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where he won the Mari Sandoz Prize for his fiction. He lives in Omaha with his wife and daughter.

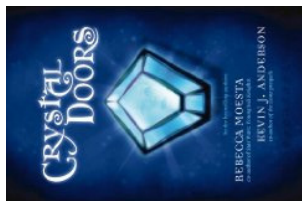


Recipes will be presented by Jessica Covi from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. She will share her experiences in compiling the cookbook "The Toast of Omaha" with the Junior League of Omaha service organization. The Junior League of Omaha is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

**Lunch will be served from noon - 1 p.m.
followed by a Panel Discussion from 1 - 2 p.m.
We will wrap up the workshop with an Autograph
Session from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The books below are available for pre-purchase. Send order with Registration form.

Science Fiction



Kevin J. Anderson

___ Crystal Doors:

Sky Realm \$16.99

___ The Ashes of
Worlds \$25.99

___ Paul of Dune
\$25.95

___ The Last Days of
Krypton \$25.95

___ Total

Romance



Victoria
Alexander

___ The Perfect
Wife \$6.99

___ Secrets of a
Proper Lady
\$6.99

___ Seduction of a
Proper Gentle-
man \$6.99

___ Total

Mystery



Sean
Doolittle

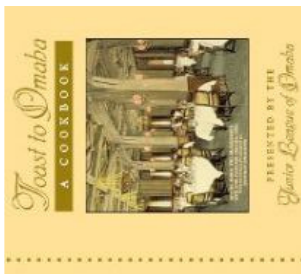
___ The Clean
up \$6.99

___ Rain Dogs
\$6.99

___ Burn
\$25.95

___ Total

Non-Fiction
Cookbook



Jessica Covi

___ Toast to

Omaha: A
Cookbook

\$24.95

___ Total

Registration:

Name: _____

Library: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send check payable to Nebraska
Regional Library Systems and
Registration Form by October 8, 2008
to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

Email: nrmeyer@alltel.net

NLA/NEMA Fall Conference
 Technical Services Round Table
 Presents

What is a Book Worth?
Determining the Value of a Book

A pre-Conference presented by
Dr. Sidney Berger
Library Director, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
Wednesday, October 15, 9am-4pm
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Books come to libraries from different sources, in different conditions, and with different values. Often a librarian is perplexed in deciding which books to keep, and why, and which books should be passed on to others or even sold. What is meant by the "value" or "worth" of a book? Is it dollar value, or intrinsic, research value? What are the variables in determining the value of a book? What tools are available for making the determination? Is there a difference in the insurance value of a book and in the replacement value? Should books be purchased from eBay, or relatives, or thrift shops? Why do different copies of the same title vary in value? Dr. Berger will assist participants in learning the answers to these questions and more during this all-day event. Participants are invited to bring a book or two to assist in the learning process. This is the same workshop offered by Dr. Berger at the UIU-C GSLIS Book Arts program. All this for only \$40, including lunch (MPLA members can register for \$30). **Registration is limited to 40 participants.**

Sponsored by TSRT, with additional funding provided by McGoogan Library of Medicine-UNMC, the Mountain Plains Library Association, Houchen Bindery, Ltd., and the University of Nebraska Press.

What is a Book Worth? Determining the Value of a Book
NLA/NEMA Pre-Conference, Wednesday, October 15, 9am-4pm
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Registration opens August 1.

Clip and send with your \$40 payment (made out to TSRT) to:
 Casey Kralik, Technical Services Librarian,
 Bellevue University, 1000 Galvin Road South, Bellevue, NE 68005

Registration is limited to 40 people. Call Casey at 402-557-7309 to register.

Name _____

Address _____

MPLA member? _____ (If yes, your registration fee is only \$30!)

NLA/NEMA Fall Conference

Serving Library Customers with Disabilities

Wednesday, October 15, 1pm-4pm
Cornhusker Marriot Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Increase your understanding and awareness of how disabilities affect library users' access to information. This engaging and interactive workshop will provide hands-on demonstrations of the obstacles various disabilities can place in the way of your users, illuminate the challenges our differently-abled customers face in their day-to-day lives, and propose simple solutions for improving the experience of disabled users. Dress comfortably for this hands-on and interactive presentation.

Kathleen Newman, MA COMS, is an experienced Special Education instructor for university and college teacher preparation programs and has over 30 years experience working with children and adults with visual and/or multiple impairments.

NLA/NEMA Pre-Conference, Wednesday, October 15, 9am-4pm
Cornhusker Marriot Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Clip and send with your \$15 payment (made out to 2008 NLA/NEMA Conference) to:

John Bernardi
Charles B. Washington Library
2868 Ames Ave.
Omaha, NE. 68111

Name _____

Address _____

2008 NLA/NEMA Conference



We hope you will join us in Lincoln October 15 – 17, 2008 for 3 days of enriching sessions, energizing fun, and engaging exhibits!

Come for a Wednesday pre-conference (3 to choose from) and be sure to stay through the final session on Friday to be entered in a special prize drawing.

Help our conference go green by bringing your own bag and printing out session handouts from this web site either before you come or after you get home.

Don't miss the special events that have been planned: Wednesday evening we will get the opportunity to visit the new International Quilt Study Center and Museum; Thursday night we will gather at the banquet to recognize and celebrate our professional endeavors of the past year, then have the chance to show off our "bling" at Casino Royale, a fundraiser for the NLA Legacy Fund with a James Bond flair.

Be sure to check out all the great sessions and learn about the keynote speakers, but the most important thing is to print off that registration and send it in NOW! Early bird registration ends August 31, 2008.

Please consider making a reservation at The Cornhusker for your conference stay.

- The NLA/NEMA Conference Planning Committee

Of course, there are several sessions that SELS staff members would like you to be extra aware of, and you can register for just a day (\$50-75):

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Thursday: Why we do it: Intellectual Freedom and the Library 8-8:50 a.m.

Jim Heckle will be talking about 1st Amendment & USA Patriot Act.

Can We Talk? Civil Discourse and the Public Library 1:40-2:50 p.m.

Jim Heckle will be dealing with conflict resolution.

Friday: Relax, Sit Back, Let's Talk: A Conversation on Int. Free. 2:50-3:30 a.m.

An opportunity to talk about IF issues that are happening nationally, statewide & locally.

Legislative Committee

Friday: Political Influence: How you can be effective 10-10:50 a.m.

Brian Mikkelsen, Director of Political Activity for the Nebraska State Educational Association will be helping us navigate the political landscape.

Political Issues Facing Nebraska 3:50-4:40 p.m.

Sen. Adams, York; Sen. Avery, Lincoln; & Sen. Heidemann, Elk Creek will be discussing the latest issues.

Conversations Among Small Town Librarians (CASTL)

Thursday: One Book, Many Librarians 4:40-5:30 p.m.

We'll be discussing Kent Haruf's book, *Eventide*. And of course, there'll be refreshments.



James Bond: I have a dinner jacket.

Vesper Lynd: There are dinner jackets and dinner jackets;
this is the latter. And I need you looking like a man who belongs at that table.

Casino Royale movie (2006)

Bring your money, your skill, and your luck

for a night of fun that benefits the Legacy Fund.

Thursday night after the Banquet, or at 9 p.m., whichever's earliest,
come join us in the Arbor Room to play
poker, roulette, bingo, craps, and blackjack.

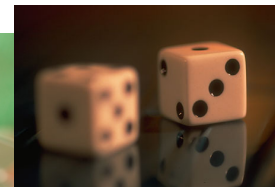


And for an extra dose of
glamour, you can dress 007 style,
“like a man (or woman) who
belongs at [the] table.”

So pull out your ritziest evening
wear, your exotic foreign accents, and
come try your luck! Of course you're
welcome to come mingle and be one of
the beautiful people even if you don't
want to play.



It will be \$5 for 25 chips
with similar rules to last
year's gaming event.



Cash Bar

Only at 2008's NLA/NEMA Conference in Lincoln on October 16!

New Book Discussion Titles at SELS

Black Juice by Margo Lanagan — Short stories; interpersonal relations.

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits— Poetry; “This irreverent, witty collection should resonate with a wide audience.” Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library.

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper— Historical fiction of a young African girl’s life and the slave trade in 1738. Coretta Scott King Author Award Book.

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi—Historical graphic novel of a young woman’s life in Iran and how things changed in 1979.

Pride of Baghdad by Brian K. Vaughan— Graphic novel about the life of four lions in a warzone after escaping from the Baghdad Zoo during a bombing raid in 2003.

Sledding Hill by Chris Crutcher— A novel of two friends, a deadly accident and the issue of censorship.

Stiff: the Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach— A non-fiction title that takes a light-hearted historical survey of the role cadavers have played in science.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld— A science fiction title that looks at the issue of personal beauty.

Heat by Mike Lupica— Subjects included in this novel of a Little League pitching prodigy are orphans, Cuban immigrants and a life on the run.

Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby— A novel of a young person, deaf since age six, and not allowed to learn sign language by her mother—whose life changes with meeting Dr. Mansell and his baby chimpanzee.

Nobody’s Princess by Esther M. Friesner— This fiction title has a twist of Greek mythology with the story of Helen who disguises herself as a boy before becoming a queen, and Helen of Troy.

Taker by J.M. Steele—A mystery novel that deals with the pressure to get good grades, and a student’s inability to do well on standardized tests and the opportunity to cheat.

Each discussion bag contains 15 copies of the title, some with a CD version.
Contact System office to reserve a bookbag: 800-288-6063/jennip@alltel.net



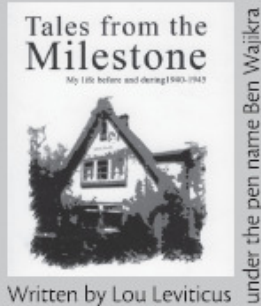
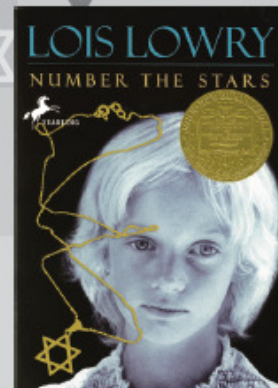
**13th Annual
Plum Creek
Children's Literacy Festival**

Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary & Adult Offerings

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 - Seward Schools Day
Friday, Oct. 10, 2008 - Children's Day for commuting schools
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 - Adult Conference Day

Featured authors and illustrators: Joan Bauer, Cynthia DeFelice, Gail Gibbons, Mo Willems, Hans Wilhelm, & Mike Graf

Go to: <http://www.cune.edu/about/2040/> for more information.



under the pen name Ben Wajikra

You are cordially invited to the
Concordia University's Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival
Number the Stars Endowment Event
to support children's literacy

an evening with Lois Lowry
Newbery Award-winning author of *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*

Saturday, October 11, beginning at 5 p.m.

at The Cornhusker, A Marriott Hotel

Silent auction, music by the Concordia Jazz Ensemble,
book sales and signings, program and dinner

Guest speaker: Lou Leviticus, child survivor of the Holocaust

Special appearances by Gail Gibbons and Hans Wilhelm

333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

RSVP by October 1, 2008

Funds raised will go to benefit the Concordia Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival
endowment fund, ensuring a legacy of literacy for generations to come.



**CONCORDIA
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NEBRASKA



Shop for SELS!

Southeast Library System Friends will be having a
Book Fair at Barnes & Noble at Southpointe on
November 28 all day.

There will be a gift wrap table,
with many other possible surprises.

Come shop for the holidays!

**SELS Board Meeting Louisville Public Library
Louisville, NE
February 14, 2008**

Board Members Present: Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries), Scott Childers (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries), Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library), Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center), Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center), Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools)

Also Present: Carol Alley (Louisville Library Board Treasurer), Becky Baker (SELS Friends Representative, Seward Memorial Library), Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator), Erin Egan-OsBurn (DCS Library Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services), Ruth Ann Hlavac (Director, Louisville Public Library), Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant), Lisa Shen (Louisville Library Board), Sarah Stovall (Louisville Library Board President)

Board Members Absent: Ken Gunselman (York College), Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City), Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library), Kim McCain (Tri-County Schools, DeWitt), Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library), Kris Rogge (Johnson), Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora)

President Willnerd called the meeting to order at 10:39 am.

I. What's New Around the System:

Frank reports from the Greenwood Public Library that the numbers were good last month. January's numbers for this year were better than last year's. Bernthal reports on UNL's journal cancellation project. The UNL Libraries are still working through the process of hiring an Assistant Dean. Elton reports the Lincoln Correctional Center finished its proposal to increase space for library. Egan-OsBurn reports the Department of Corrections have decided to teach in-house and their libraries will be more like the libraries in a public school. They are hoping to get a system similar to Follett implemented as some libraries don't even have a card catalog. Puchalla reports on the NLA Legislative Day - 32 senators and staff attended and Senator Landis had a very good message about working with legislators. One of the more interesting suggestions was to court people before they even get to office. At the event, 7 volunteers were recognized for their hard work, 5 attended the day. As funding for the event is always an issue, some discussion about approaching NEMA for added funding or other partners for collaboration was held. Hegr sent a written report for the board. Hlavac welcomed the board to Louisville and reported they've added some new furniture and some evening hours. Louisville's population has been changing as more people are moving into town and commuting to Omaha & Lincoln. Schmitz reports the Lincoln Regional Center are going through the Joint Committee on Hospital Accreditation process and have been busy with that. There was a Nebraska Association of Institutional Librarians (NAIL) meeting in Seward about "ditching dewey" recently as well. They are also still waiting to hear about their grant to purchase Wii video game systems. Willnerd reports that March 3 is Read Across America day at Lincoln Public Schools. They will be trying to tie-in activities with the "Horton Hears a Who" movie coming out. She also reports that the new Adams elementary school looks to be a wonderful site and they are still working on opening day collection for that site. Work also continues with the Arnold site that will be shared with Lincoln City Libraries. Baker reports that Seward is back into the spring session of programs. They are doing "One Book, One Grade" and also doing a tie-in with "Horton Hears a Who" with the 4th graders. She also reports the celebration of the library building being paid off will happen on April 13th, during National Library Week. Their "ditching dewey" project is about 3/4 complete.

II. Questions &/or Report from Louisville: Discussion on financial models regarding grants, trust funds, and municipal monies occurred.

III. Minutes: No corrections were suggested. Minutes will be approved via email.

IV. Financial report

Puchalla reports that we are now 63% through the fiscal year. There is a correction in the written report, the accountant figure also includes 3rd quarter. Puchalla noted that the equipment line has expenses that will be reimbursed by the Nebraska Library commission. Some discussion about colloquium funding occurred. Ealey reports that we had underestimated the amount of grant funding we needed this year and in the next grant process we will ask for more money. A discussion ensued about the relationship between the Commission and the Systems in regard to funding and promotion of events. Transactions will be approved through email.

V. Administrator's Report

Highlights from Ealey's written report:

The CASTL meeting in Roca was postponed, but had good attendance on new date.

The Nebraska Correctional Libraries meeting was "great fun"

The Automated Vendor workshop had some good information. There were some appealing options like the Apollo product for public libraries.

A trip to the Nebraska Youth Correctional Facility to see what things that might work well there. Ealey notes that there will have to be some cataloging done there.

NLC is doing a Learning 2.0 program session; Systems were invited to join. There was some confusion about non-NLC participation in the program.

The DuPage program was not as advertised. The "Community Informatics" was simply new jargon for what has been talked about before.

There are bookbags available for the "One Book, One Nebraska 2008" - "Restoring the Burnt Child"

There are also bookbags available for "One book, One Teen" - "The Book Thief" available for reservation.

There is still progress in starting a library in Johnson and Ealey is answering questions on some of the day-to-day things that need to happen.

Adjourned for lunch break at 12:28 pm.

Meeting rejoined at 1:19 pm

Service Role 2: Consortia Building and Cooperative approaches to Providing Library Services

Ealey & Baker have been attending basic skills meetings to talk about changes to the program. They will be the guinea pigs with some of the changes in training for South Eastern Nebraska. The NLC is also working to get some online modules made. The future of systems participation in basic skills training is currently unclear.

Future Search will be using focus group questions to get information about libraries from library and non-library people. The conference will be in June with many attendees that are non-library people. The third step will be some sort of followup of the conference. The goal of conference is to get everybody on the same page and going in the same direction in regards to the direction of libraries. They want a large amount of participation in getting the focus group information done.

At the quarterly meeting, had two system administrators didn't know about NebrasKard program. It is still alive and there are a smattering of libraries that are NebrasKard organizations.

Service Role 4: Management of SELS resources

Childers & Willnerd purchase podcast equipment to finish out some grant money. Two new computers are in now as well. The Department of Corrections contract is for \$500 a quarter. The list of institutions under that contract are almost all institutions that are in the SELS. Ealey did take Kathy Tooker of the Eastern Library System when she visited the one in Omaha. SELS will not be making as income from the agreement because of unexpected insurance requirements in the contract.

Upcoming Events

There was some feedback about CASTL meetings should have more of a balance between Thursdays and Fridays. In looking at future scheduling, that is something that should be kept in mind.

March 14- Commissioners meeting in Kearney.

March 17 - Sally Reed webinar for Nebraska Libraries

April 12 - ACLU Nebraska annual meeting with Barbara Bailey speaking.

April 16 - Ben Mikaelson in DeWitt & Mahoney

April 24 - Next board meeting at Eiseley branch of Lincoln City Libraries, 11:00 – 4:00, then Aged to Perfection event that night.

May 16th - Training Extravaganza at Lincoln Public School District Office.

Miscellaneous

A letter to Rod Wagner of the Nebraska Library Commission from Ealey and Willnerd was distributed to the Board for their information concerning 10 year evaluation of databases, as a follow-up to the SELS retreat discussion.

Ealey presented a list of libraries for visits. Willnerd & Frank will start with a few of the libraries on the list.

Ealey will also try to get a few on the list to the next CASTL meetings. More discussion will take place at the next board meeting.

VI. SELS Friends report

Baker reported that the annual "Aged to Perfection" event will be held on Apr 24. There will be antique appraisals again. The admission price will be for the program and the food, not the wine as in previous years.

There is some initial planning of a private movie showing in the near future.

VII. Committee Meetings

Continuing Education - A book publisher (Usborn) wanted to be at the summer reading meeting. Seward policy discourages private profit on site without prior approval plus placement would be problematic. Ealey will suggest other options to the publisher.

Some brainstorming of Training Extravaganza sessions was done.

Consortium Committee - no report at this time

Promotion/Advocacy Committee -

The podcasting equipment was the big thing and that has come in. Childers will check with info@connectseward.org on file hosting. The connection with NLC might be something for this group to look at. Possibly using the commissioner of the area (John Dale) as a liaison to improve communication. Next meeting Apr 24 at branch of Lincoln City Libraries Annual Meeting on June 18, Location TBD Meeting adjourned 3:44

**SELS Board Meeting Eiseley Branch
Lincoln City Libraries
April 24th, 2008**

Board Members Present: Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska - Lincoln); Scott Childers (University of Nebraska - Lincoln); Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Ken Gunselman (York College Levitt Library); Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora); Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools)

Also Present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Becky Baker (SELS Friends representative, Seward Memorial Library); Laura Johnson (Nebraska Library Commission)

Board Members Absent: Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Kim McCain (Tri-County Schools, DeWitt); Kris Rogge (Johnson)

President Willnerd called the meeting to order: at 11:10 AM

I. NLC report

Laura Johnson provided a written report. Some discussion about upcoming webinars coming up was held. Johnson reports there were some problems with DuPage webinars, but NLC plans on finishing out the subscription. They might not advertise the live ones as much, but emphasize the recorded/archive versions. It is currently questionable if the subscription with DuPage will be renewed.

Johnson reports that the historical state document website has been started.

The development crew of the NLC has started a program of going out to visit libraries in the state. These are informal visits to see what is going on with the libraries. They plan to visit as many as can - just kind of as they go around the state.

Johnson reports that the 23 things program went well. Some didn't finish the program, but it was an interesting thing to do. This program is related to the 43 things printed in the recent Meridian Systems Library newsletter. Some discussion on the creative commons license experiment ended the NLC report.

II. What's New Around the System

Schmitz reports the Regional Centers got 2/3 of the video game grant they applied for. They had a meeting recently and did some cutbacks and redid some of the grants. It will be bid out to see what can be acquired within the budget. Some of his staff will go to the Walt branch of Lincoln City Libraries to see how to play the games and see what you can do with them. Hegr reports that new technology center is up and running at Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City after 2 years of working on it. There are 15 computers in it and she held an open house last week for it. People have been very positive about it. She is starting a monthly radio spot about what is going on in the libraries. She is also in the process of reevaluating job descriptions to get some sort of upward mobility opportunities for her staff. They are looking at increasing hours and to get staff full-time at 40 hours instead of 35. The staff is happy about the changes. Olivigni reports that a lot has been done throughout the month for National Library Week at Crete Public Library. Outreach activities included an author brunch that 50 people attended. Nancy Sharpe from Fremont was the author at the brunch. She took their Wii to the assisted living outreach site. There they had some participation from middle school students and residents of the assisted living site. Baker reports the Seward Memorial Library burned their mortgage on the Sunday of National Library Week. They had Bill Kloefkorn come to talk about "Restoring the Burnt Child" before the burning. Their Follett system isn't working right now and it looks like they might be making the switch to Apollo software soon.

Thomsen reports the Alice M. Farr Library in Aurora had a Humanities program about the Dustbowl that filled the room. They are working with the state and the WIC programs to have families come in and use the library. They are also working on summer reading and looking to start a webpage to have their catalog online. Elton reports that they did a book talk on "The Book Thief" at the Lincoln Correctional Center and it was really positive. Professor Lisa Ashby from Concordia did the talk and did a very good job. Gunselman reports that Ramona Ratliff, a long-time employee of York College Levitt Library just graduated with her MLS degree. Chil-

ders reports there was a bit of controversy over some proposed increased student library fees at UNL. They are still going through the search process for a new associate dean. Willnerd reports Diane Ferlatte, the story teller, will be returning to perform at 15 schools. Lincoln Public Schools will be hosting the SELS Training Extravaganza this year. All the school media centers got a copy of a book as unsolicited donations. The books have been collected and will be sent back as LPS does not add that type of "agenda book" in their collections and it didn't come through the proper channels to begin with. Willnerd reports that there are 2 people retiring, Karla Wendelin and Gretchen Garcia. Frank reports Greenwood public library is getting ready for summer reading.

II. Approval of Minutes

Willnerd suggested an addition to the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Elton and seconded by Olivigni. Motion passed.

III. NebraskaAccess Evaluation

Ealey and Willnerd met with Rod Wagner and Shannon White of the Nebraska Library Commission recently to talk about NebraskaAccess program. They were suggesting that sharing some of the usage reports would be beneficial and maybe a survey be put in place to see what Nebraskans might want for resources. The idea of forming a committee of representatives from many different types of libraries to talk about these things was introduced. There are still some pockets of people that might need to be part of the conversations.

Ealey is not sure how this will be continued with the recent NLC staffing changes. Willnerd wants to see these statistics to see how the individual resources are being used and if they are still relevant. A group approach to see what the needs are really at might be useful. The whole issue on the difficult search experience created by many library databases and how it might make spending money on them a bad idea was discussed.

IV Financial Report

Puchalla presented the financial report. The colloquium line is a bit of an oddity, as it doesn't reflect that the costs are not just SELS's. Puchalla also reported that the IRS penalty line is based on a late payment, and Gary Riggs (SELS auditor) is working with us to get it refunded. Also noted was with the new biz-hub contract, that got rid of copier & printer contracts and so the equipment expense could have been much greater. The System still hasn't received money from Corrections, even though they have submitted their request.

A motion to approve the transactions was made by Thomsen and seconded by Gunselman. Motion passed.

Break for lunch at 1:15 PM, meeting reconvened at 2:28 PM

V. Administrator's Reports

Ealey highlighted some of her activities as outlined in her written report

Service Role 1: Training & Consulting

CASTL meetings are still going on.

A statewide education meeting brought people from all over to encourage communication and collaboration on training and CE opportunities available. Some are looking at the idea of a central calendar of opportunities.

Baker & Ealey taught a basic skills course on "Organization of Library Materials."

The summer reading workshop had good turnout, even with bad weather. It received positive reviews.

Ealey & Puchalla went to Louisville for a working meeting, did some weeding of the collection while they were there.

Ben Mikaelson's visit to Nebraska went well.

Deshler CASTL meeting went very well.

Ealey was a guest for an SCC Online class about Legislation & Libraries and it went well.

Online CASTL discussions are going OK.

Barbara Bailey came and visited Nebraska and did some various events as well as participated at the ACLU dinner.

Service Role 2: Consortia Building & Cooperative Approaches to Providing Library Services

Ealey & Puchalla are involved in NLA/NEMA Conference planning with Misty Prochaska. The NLA Legislative Committee suggested each of the systems have a fall meeting and invite legislative candidates to be part of the event.

The SELS system got a list of titles for book discussion titles as part of a grant to create book discussion bags.

Service Role 3: Promotion

Ealey spoke to ethics classes at Doane Lincoln about the 1st amendment and libraries.

Ealey met with some LTA students for an interview to talk about the role of systems.

LB 572 follow up and tracking

Service Role 4: Management of SELS Resources

The gaming grant was approved and now they are looking for Wiis to actually purchase. The systems have been notoriously hard to find in stores.

Ealey will be going to the MPLA conference.

Upcoming Events:

MPLA Conference (April 28 – May 3)

NLA Legislative Day (May 10 – May 15)

SELS Training Extravaganza (May 16)

Alex Kava will be at Mayhem in the Midlands (May 25)

Early estimates from Rod Wagner (NLC) for the budget for next year are a 2% increase plus \$500.

The annual meeting will be June 18. Bill Kloefkorn will be the speaker. The location has yet to be determined.

VI. SELS Friends

A written report was distributed by Baker. The Aged to Perfection event was cancelled due to low registration. The Friends are still planning on holding a private showing of a movie, but need to check what the current situation with the new movie chain owners. They are also looking at doing book sales this year. The Friends Annual Meeting will be in July or August, as per bylaws.

VII. Annual Meeting and SELS Board Nominations

Sandy Elton, Ken Gunselman, Lisa Olivigni, & Karen Frank are all at the end of their terms this year. Frank is eligible to run again, the others have served two consecutive terms and are not eligible to run again this year.

It is encouraged that each board member tries to recruit people to run.

There was some discussion on attendance policies for board members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

SELS Board Annual Meeting Wyuka Cemetery and Park - Lincoln, NE June 18, 2008

Board Members Present: Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska - Lincoln Libraries); Scott Childers (University of Nebraska - Lincoln Libraries); Ken Gunselman (York College); Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora); Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools)

Also Present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Becky Baker (SELS Friends representative, Seward Memorial Library); Ruth Carlock (York College)

Board Members Absent: Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Kim McCain (Tri-County Schools, DeWitt); Kris Rogge (Johnson)

President Willnerd called the meeting to order at 10:53 AM

I. Announcement of New Board Members

Ealey announced the new board members for the 2008-2009 year. Board member Karen Frank

(Greenwood Public Library) was re-elected. Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library), Ruth Carlock (York College), and Misty Prochaska (Kaplan University) are new board members.

II. What's New Around the System:

Bernthal reports a couple of librarians are leaving the UNL Libraries, Gretchen Holton Poppler & Debbie Krahmer. New Associate Dean Elaine Westbrooks joins the staff in August, coming from Cornell University. They have identified journals that are going to be cut and work has started on getting those cancelled. Schmitz reports he has a new title: Resource Center Director. They are still doing some reorganizing within the system. They were awarded the Wii grant for the consortium and are now waiting for the new budget in July to do the actual purchasing. They sent staff over to Walt branch of Lincoln City Library to learn how to use the systems. Baker reports Seward Memorial Library is in the middle of summer reading. They had the Aksarben Aquarium bring some bugs to the library for a program. They are currently weeding and will be having a booksale on July 4. Olivigni reports that Crete Public Library is also in midst of summer reading. They had a kickoff event in the city park that had 250 people there. People in the community are expecting the kickoff now. Crete is thinking about adding a 1/2 cent sales tax for city improvement projects. The library's friends group was represented at the meeting. They are not sure where the proposed money would be directed. Puchalla reports that CASTL/NEMA did a "Ditch Dewey" program that inspired Louisville to do it at their library. Gunselman reports Ramona Ratliff recently got her Masters degree and signed a faculty contract at York college. He continues with a report that Ruth Carlock and himself went to a conference at Pepperdine for Christian colleges recently. Thomsen reports Aurora got hit by the recent storms, but the library escaped major damage and just lost their flag. Summer reading is going on with lots of kids showing up. Thomsen will be presenting a "Ditch Dewey" proposal to her board in August. Hegr reports that Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City had "bugs in the building" as well for the summer reading program. Arbor Lodge brought in their bee colony, next week is Jeff Quinn, magician. The pest control came in and sprayed, so they are wondering if the ant colony brought in for summer reading is still alive. They recently had to tear up a sewer line, so the grounds are a mess. Hegr shares the story of a young magician from Nebraska City who has been accepted to New York Academy for Theatre Arts who got interested in his art because of a set magic books in the library. Willnerd reports Lincoln Public Schools have 6 new hires coming in. They are still looking for two media specialists. The NEMA/CASTL meeting was well attended and well received. The time to read in the morning was a good idea. She also thought the Training Extravaganza went well. There were lots of positive comments on the facility and on the sessions. A few libraries brought their whole staffs.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve as presented was made by Gunselman and seconded by Thomsen. Motion passed

IV. Financial Report

Puchalla reports that SELS will end up short this year, because of the shortfall last year. In the upcoming budget, the colloquium line will be going away because of the nature of usual collaboration with ELS. \$200.50 dollars will be moved out to create a new account, just for the colloquiums. Some discussion on journals, specifically what's available online & free and what still needs to be paper, was held. SELS will cancel some titles it has been subscribed to. The workshops have all been profitable, but not majorly so. A discussion on the timing of payments was had.

A motion to accept the transactions was made by Hegr and seconded by Olivigni. Motion passed.

V. SELS Proposed Budget for 2008/2009

The budget proposal from the Executive Committee was distributed.

One of the main discussion points was the newsletters; should SELS go all electronic vs keeping the print newsletter. Another main point is the mileage reimbursement.

Newsletter - the board accepts the line, but will encourage the mailing list be trimmed and that more email notification to be used. It was requested that the mailing list would be brought to the next meeting.

The board asks that Ealey and Puchalla bring a history of the budget cuts next meeting. The board approved of the 3% raise proposed by the Executive Committee.

There was a discussion about if a line-item should be placed in the budget for a new system vehicle. It was suggested that this idea be discussed with the System's accountant and that some information on what the other regional systems are doing should be brought to the board.

The budget was brought to a vote as presented from committee. Motion passed.

Lunch called at 1:30

Meeting rejoined at 2:35

VI. Administrator's Report

Ealey highlighted some items from her written report:

Service Role 1: Training & Consulting

- * The Training Extravaganza got favorable reviews on both the sessions offered and the location.
- * Ealey and Becky Baker met with Laura Johnson and Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission to talk about Basic Skills. The Commission is thinking about doing segments instead of full-blown courses. The SELS will do this with the fall Administration Basic Skills course as a test.
- * Attended the statewide open source symposium. Not sure what the follow-up will be from that yet.
- * Presented about Intellectual Freedom at NELS annual meeting in Columbus.
- * SELS will be involved with many things at the upcoming NLA/NEMA conference. The book for "One Book, One Conference" is Eventide by Kent Haruf. There is another casino night fundraiser for the NLA Legacy fund this year.
- * Ealey has had a few conversations with Corrections staff and Puchalla is following up on payment for services rendered.

Service Role 2: Consortia Building & Cooperative Approaches to Providing Library Services

- * Attended the NLC/Systems quarterly meeting. Some suggestions from the meeting were a layperson's law guide for Nebraskans and some sort of guidelines for libraries that are combining. It was reported that Gates money for computer replacements might not be available until 2009.
- * The Future Search conference was a ton of work, but it did happen and it was successful. Ealey suggests that the board watch the wiki for more information, including some vision statements and action items that have come out of the conference. A taskforce was created to continue the ideas.
- * The Apollo automation group is working on a SELS group purchase. They need 10 total and currently have 6.

Service Role 3: Promotion

- * Puchalla attended National Legislative Day in Washington, DC
- * Ealey shared a positive story for small town libraries about how a patron was thrilled that he was able get a projector from Kilgore Memorial Library in York. The story ended with the quote, "Leave it to a small town library to come through in such a big way."

Service Role 4: Management of SELS Resources

- * Held the elections for the new SELS board.

Upcoming

Regional Library Systems Administrators' meeting in Chadron. (June 26)

The annual report was passed out at this time.

VII. SELS Friends Report

Becky Baker reports from the Friends recent meeting. The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 8. The current plan is for the Board to meets at noon with general membership invited at 1 for gaming and socializing from 1:30-5 at Baker's house. The Friends are still working on a group showing of a movie. They plan on hosting a book fair on Dec 14. Certificates will be available to be handed out to patrons. A percentage of the sales using those coupons will be given to the Friends. Wanda Marget will do another piece of crochet work for raffle at NLA/NEMA conference. The Friends have the go ahead to sell Haruf books at the conference and are going to do theme basket silent auction. They are not going to do the hospitality suite this year. This is not a year for elections for new board members, but there will be an officer election at the annual meeting.

VIII. NLC Report

no report

IX. Election of Board Officers

There was some discussion on elections and policy before the elections.

The floor was opened for nominations for any of the positions. There were none from the floor. The executive committee put forward the incumbents as a slate. Motion passed.

X. August Board meeting/planning retreat

The meeting will be Aug 15, tentatively at Crete Public Library.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM

June—September 2008

Those who are too smart to
engage in politics are
punished by being governed by
those who are dumber.

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